

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (currently amended). A method of inhibiting or reducing the proliferation of prostate cancer cells that express sPLA₂-IIA in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the cells a selective inhibitor of the enzyme activity of an sPLA₂-IIA polypeptide having a sequence as defined in SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein the inhibitor inhibits the sPLA₂-IIA-mediated proliferation of prostate cancer cells, and wherein the inhibitor is a cyclic peptide of the following formula:

A1-A2-A3-A4-A5, in which

A1 is F or Y or W or 2Nap

A2 is L or I

A3 is S or T

A4 is F or Y or W or 2Nap

A5 is R or K.

2 (canceled).

3 (previously presented). A method according to claim 1 wherein the prostate cancer cells are androgen independent prostate cancer (AIPC) cells.

4 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 1, wherein the PLA₂ inhibitor is a cPLA₂-α inhibitor.

5-9 (canceled).

10 (currently amended). A method according to claim 9 1, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of cFLSYK (SEQ ID NO:5), cFLSYR (SEQ ID NO:6) and c(2NapA)LS(2NapA)R.

11 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 1, wherein a cPLA₂-α inhibitor is administered in conjunction with an sPLA₂-IIA inhibitor.

12. (withdrawn). A method for detecting prostate cancer or a metastases thereof in a subject, said method comprising:

determining the level of PLA₂ mRNA expressed in a test sample from said subject; and

comparing the level of PLA₂ mRNA determined at (i) to the level of PLA₂ mRNA expressed in a comparable sample from a healthy or normal individual,

wherein a level of PLA₂ mRNA at (i) that is enhanced in the test sample relative to the comparable sample from the normal or healthy individual is indicative of the presence of a cancer cell in said subject.

13 (withdrawn). A method for detecting prostate cancer or a metastases thereof in a subject, said method comprising:

determining the level of a PLA₂ polypeptide in a test sample from said subject;

and

comparing the level of PLA₂ polypeptide determined at (i) to the level of said PLA₂ polypeptide in a comparable sample from a healthy or normal individual,

wherein a level of said PLA₂ polypeptide at (i) that is enhanced in the test sample relative to the comparable sample from the normal or healthy individual is indicative of the presence of a cancer cell in said subject.

14 (withdrawn). A method of assessing the predisposition of a subject to prostate cancer, the method comprising the step of determining the presence of a polymorphism or an epigenetic change in a PLA₂ gene of the subject.

15 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 12 wherein the prostate cancer cells are androgen independent prostate cancer (AIPC) cells.

16 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 12, wherein the PLA₂ is cPLA₂-α.

17 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 12, wherein the PLA₂ is sPLA₂-IIA.